

Remarks

Entry of the above amendments, and reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-25 will be pending. Claims 7-15 remain withdrawn from further consideration.

Summary of the Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Pazar (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2003/0167706), in view of Takemoto (U.S. Patent No. 4,219,596).

Analysis

Independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Pazar, in view of Takemoto. In view of the following remarks and the attached supplemental commercial success declaration, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Applicants additionally respectfully traverse the same rejection of dependent claims 3, 4, and 6 as they depend from independent claim 1.

The Office Action notes that Pazar discloses a metal substrate having a decorative graphic attached/adhered to a top surface. The Office Action further notes that while Pazar discloses a metal substrate having a decorative graphic it “fails to disclose the substrate as being a transparent substrate having a decorative graphic printed thereon wherein the substrate is attached to the carapace via an adhesive (transparent).” To cure this deficiency, the Office Action points to Takemoto as disclosing, “a transparent substrate 16 having a decorative graphic 18 printed thereon wherein the substrate is attached to a structure via a transparent adhesive...such that the graphic appears to be part of the structure as opposed to appearing ‘stuck on’....” The Office Action reasons that the motivation to combine these references is that “prior to modifying Pazar in view of the teachings of Takemoto, the decorative graphic (nameplate) appears stuck on the carapace, and the replacement of the Pazar arrangement with the Takemoto arrangement would improve the appearance of the vault as the decorative graphic would instead appear as part of the carapace.” Applicant respectfully submits that there is no teaching or suggestion in Pazar to combine Pazar with

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Takemoto as indicated in the Office Action, and therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of Pazar with Takemoto. Pazar teaches providing "a more permanent record than the nameplate 2310" that is not exposed to the elements. There is no discussion or suggestion in Pazar of avoiding a "stuck on" appearance of the nameplate or of improving the appearance of the nameplate on a surface. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claim 1 and its associated dependent claims.

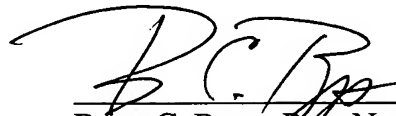
Moreover, as further evidence of unobviousness, we have attached a declaration of Marty Jay Cox as to the commercial success of the invention. Mr. Cox is one of the inventors of this invention. The invention was first sold in 2003. Since then sales have grown steadily as noted in the commercial success declaration.

New claims 16-25

New claims 16-25 have added. No new matter has been added. New independent claim 16 is also allowable over Pazar and Takemoto for at least the reasons cited above with regard to claim 1.

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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